

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for collecting drips from a frozen treat, the apparatus comprising:

a base defined by a perimeter wherein the base has a center point and the perimeter is equidistant from the center point wherein the base has a top layer covering a bottom layer wherein the base is planar wherein the bottom layer is made from a material that is rigid wherein the top layer is made from an absorbent material wherein the top layer has an outer edge wherein the bottom layer extends to a point outside of the outer edge of the top layer without overlapping the top layer;

a lip integrally formed on the perimeter of the base wherein the lip extends to a point above the top layer outward wherein the lip is perpendicular to ~~with respect to the top layer of the base~~ wherein the outer edge of the top layer is adjacent to the lip without overlapping the lip; and

~~an opening~~ a passage at the center point of ~~in~~ the base ~~extending from the top layer to the bottom layer~~ wherein the ~~opening is located inside the perimeter~~ passage forms an opening through the top layer of the base and the bottom layer of the base.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the bottom layer is plastic.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the absorbent material is paper.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising:

an adhesive sticker on the base.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising:

a washable tattoo on the base.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising:

a partition in the base wherein the partition is removed from the base.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising:

a mark printed on the base.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~A system~~ An apparatus for collecting drips from a frozen treat mounted on a stick, the system comprising:

a base defined by a perimeter wherein the base has a center point and the perimeter is equidistant from the center point wherein the base has a top side and a bottom side positioned opposite to the top side wherein the base is planar wherein the base is made from a material that is rigid;

a lip on the perimeter of the base wherein the lip extends outward perpendicularly with respect to the top side of the base;

an absorbing means covering the top side of the base wherein

the absorbing means is located inside the perimeter of the base wherein the lip extends to a point above the absorbing means wherein the absorbing means has an outer edge wherein the outer edge of the absorbing means is adjacent to the lip wherein the base extends to a point outside of the outer edge of the absorbing means without overlapping the absorbing means;

a slit in the base for supporting the stick of the frozen treat in a nonparallel position with respect to the base within the perimeter of the base wherein the slit in the base is located at the center point of the base; and

an opening in the absorbing means wherein the opening extends through the absorbing means wherein the opening overlaps the slit in the base.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The apparatus of Claim 8 further comprising:

a sticker ~~removable~~ attached to the absorbing means.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 8 further comprising:

a partition in the absorbing means wherein the partition is separable from the absorbing means.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 8 further comprising:

a plurality of perforations partitioning the absorbing means.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 8 further

comprising:

a washable tattoo removably attached to the absorbing means.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method for collecting drips from a frozen treat mounted on a stick, the method comprising of the steps:

providing a base defined by a first perimeter wherein the base has a first center point and the first perimeter is equidistant from the first center point wherein the base has a first side and a second side wherein the second side is positioned opposite to the first side wherein the base is planar wherein the base is made from a material that is rigid;

providing a cover defined by a second perimeter wherein the cover has a second center point and the second perimeter is equidistant from the second center point wherein the cover has a first side and a second side wherein the second side is positioned opposite to the first side wherein the second perimeter ~~of the cover~~ is less than the first perimeter ~~of the base~~ and further wherein the cover is an absorbent material;

providing a lip on the first perimeter wherein the lip is perpendicular to the base;

connecting the second side of the cover to the first side of the base ~~wherein the cover is located inside the perimeter of the tray~~ wherein the perimeter of the cover is adjacent to the lip on the base wherein the lip on the base extends to a point above the

first side of the cover; and

providing an opening through the cover and the base wherein the opening extends from the first side of the cover to the second side of the base ~~and further~~ wherein the opening is located at the first center point and the second center point inside the perimeter of the cover; and

~~providing a lip on the perimeter of the tray wherein the lip extends outward with respect to the first side of the base.~~

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of Claim 13 further comprising of the step:

perforating the cover to form a partition in the cover wherein the partition is a section of the cover that is separable from the cover.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

partitioning the base with a plurality of perforations.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

~~connecting the second side of the cover to the first side of the base~~ printing indicia on the base.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

laminating the cover.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method of Claim 13 further

comprising the step of:

inserting the stick of the frozen treat into the opening of the cover and the base.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

removing the cover from the base to form a disk.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

utilizing the base as a disk wherein the base is separated from the cover.